

# **Letter From The Editor**

Reality Check, #600.

There's a Beatles lyric that goes, "...life goes on, bra, la, la, la, la life goes on." Not only is the part about life true but personally, I have found that life is a lot better in a bra. To go further with this musical theme, let's fast forward to the 1980s when Cindy Lau-

per (I'm not worthy! I'm

not

worthy!) taught us that *Girls*Want To Have Fun. I think that
who have finally gotten over any
they might have about crossdressing
dressing with a support group, attended.

Just
CD girls
silly guilt
nd started

dressing with a support group, attending regular TG events, and making their dressing a legitimate part of their lives have found that, as my friend Melodee (owner of an entertainment company called the Fun Department) says, "Fun is the best thing to have."

For the majority of us crossdressers (Did ya know I was one of them CDs?) the fun of dressing up is rooted in our libidos. It's an erotic activity. In the early years of a CD's life the eroticism is the cause of great guilt. Our society is not very good dealing with any sexual issues. But, after getting comfortable with yourself and allowing your crossdressing to mature (just like you, hopefully, matured about other sexual activity) you can start having other types of non-sexual fun while dressed. Dining, dancing, just walking down the street in a skirt are all more fun when you're crossdressed... if you're a crossdresser. If you're not a CD it's a little hard to understand.

Since I have been at this for a long while I smile the smile of the wise old CD at the younger girls (not just age here, they may be 55 and only out for a year or so) who seem to single handedly support the photo industry with all the pictures they have taken of themselves in various outfits. To borrow a bit from Roxy Wilson (Miss Congeniality 2001 at Paradise in the Poconos), "Here's me with a plant. Here's me by the curtains. Here's me with a table. Here's me with you, but... Look At Me!"

Yes, we can all get a little obsessed with it from time to time. But, it's a good idea to keep reality lurking in the back of your mind. You're not Cindy Crawford and probably won't ever be that hot. For example, in this issue, as you can see from our cover, I had the chance to do a modeling job with my pal, Miss Sarah Thomas (LL#37) for our article on Affordable Fantasies & Illusions' line of clothing. Now, I have been crossdressing actively for more years than I care to mention and this is only my second print modeling job... and that's because I work for the magazine. My only other model work was a catalog shoot for an online TV boutique that has since gone out of business. My agent knows that I can do modeling but she has only called me once for a modeling job and I didn't get it. My point here? If you think you are the next TG Cindy Crawford and can make great money as a TG model, don't count on it.

I have heard from readers over the years who want to "get into modeling." Well, it ain't that easy, girls. Most models are; (1) female, (2) under twenty when they start, and (3) no more than a size eight. The reality check here? Most MtF TGs don't match any of those criteria.

This is not to say that there aren't TG girls out there who model from time to time. There are. We've all seen them. Some New York designers love to use crossdressed models on the runway and in some print ads to exploit the slight sense of something being "off" and call attention to their designs by making the viewer spend more time looking at the picture to figure out what is different about it. The boys they use for this are, like the female models, all under thirty and, like the females, very beautiful in that androgynous way. They mostly don't make a full time living from modeling in drag. They are also part of the New York fashion scene in some way or another and so have contact with the designers. The old cliche, it isn't what you know but who you know, is really the way a lot of fashion and show biz works. If you're in the middle of Montana or the hills of Kentucky your chances of being a professional model are zip.

So what's a CD to do? After all, girls just want to have fun. Just because you can't become a top model is no reason to pout. (Even though pouting can be fun since it's a girly thing to do.) Go ahead and be in a fashion show for your local support group. Go to Paradise in the Poconos or another community event and enter the talent contest, the Princess pageant or whatever. Show off the stuff you do have and don't get obsessed with the things you can never achieve. Don't be afraid to say, Look at me! And of course, you can always find a place for your super model photos here in LadyLike. Just remember to smile. Stay pretty and enjoy!



LadyLike #37 covergirl Sarah Thomas & LL editrix Angela Gardner. Photo by Randi Thomas. Inset photo by Julia Anders

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# In this issue...

# **Features**



# The Lazy Crossdresser!



LL: We're so excited! Not only is our Profile Girl this month an attractive young lady but she is a published author. Julia has a book out entitled The Lazy Crossdresser. Welcome to LadyLike. How did young Charles Anders become Julia the Lazy Crossdresser?

Julia: I was only about eight or nine years old when I heard the words, "He looks so pretty! He should have been a girl." The speaker was one of my grandmother's friends, a sweet old lady who smelled of fruit trees and hyacinths. We stood on the porch of my grandmother's house in Sun City, Arizona, watching the sun go down. I do remember how I reacted: I put my hands on my hips and gave a spirited rendition of the song "I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No," from the musical Oklahoma. The performance impressed my grandmother's friend. She gave me a string of elephant silhouettes, which I hung in my bedroom window for years.

# LL: Not only a girl, but a girl who sings. Did the suggestion that you should have been a girl stick?

Julia: That was the only time anyone ever suggested I should be a girl. But I was always a femme boy, bad at sports and too prone to laughter. I liked to wear red and purple, but I never felt I'd been born in the wrong package. When I tried on my mom's clothes in my teens, I was just having fun.

LL: Oh boy, now we get to the good stuff. Tell us all about it. What did you wear and what did you do?

Julia: I pulled out a bunch of mom's slips, panties and bras and tried them on in various combinations. I looked at the gangly boy in ill-fitting satin and lace in my mom's mirror, and took a roll of photos. I posed and preened, then rushed to change back into boy garb before my parents got home.

LL: Wow, you actually took pictures? I didn't get around to taking pictures for years. Of course I never thought of shooting my image in the mirror so it was hard trying to figure out how to take the picture and pose at the same time. Good thinking. How did they turn out?

Julia: I burned the photos before I could get them developed. That was the only time I wore women's clothes until my mid-twenties. I know I thought about crossdressing during the fourteen years between my mom's clothes and my first girly outfit of my own. I dreamed about it sometimes, read silly books like *Miss High Heels* and gasped at movies like *The Crying Game*. But mostly I was busy going to college and then building a "normal" life as a journalist.

#### LL: I don't think I could have waited 14 years.

Julia: I made it to my mid-twenties without busting the dress code. But the more entrenched in my masculine identity I got, the harder it chafed. I wanted to shave off every hair that sullied the skin on my body, wear sleek dresses and cute skirts.

I sat in the bathtub for hours, scraping a razor over my legs or chest until it clogged with hairs again and again. When I let the water out of the bath, severed hairs formed a ring in the tub like *The Cat in the Hat* left.

LL: We can tell you're a writer with analogies like that. When did you finally decide to take your act on the road, so to speak?

Julia: Like so many other crossdressers, I first showed my





girl-self at Halloween. I was living on the buckle of the Bible Belt at the time. I went to a party with a former coworker wearing red high heel shoes I'd bought at the local Marshall's. I wore nylons and a black skirt and top. I put on a little makeup and wore a leather cap.

### LL: How did you feel?

Julia: I felt terrified the people at the party would mock or attack me, and every step seemed treacherous in those heels, especially when we all went out on the street. But my friend and the other partygoers kept encouraging me. They all told me what great legs I had, and how glamorous I

looked. When they put on "Let's Do The Time Warp Again" from the Rocky Horror Picture Show, I was so happy I danced in those foot-killing shoes. I glowed all the next day, even though my ankles throbbed.

# LL: You were living in the south at the time. What was that like for a fledgling CD?

Julia: Shopping for clothes in the South was a constant challenge. I would drive 90 minutes to find a friendly thrift store, only to find almost no clothes that fit me. I was hypersensitive to anything that sounded like scorn. When I bought a Wonderbra at a regular department store, the saleswoman told me to have a nice evening. I felt sure she was making fun of me for a moment.

At the friendly thrift store, I found a silver dress that I thought would slay. I was able to zip it up most of the way by myself in the dressing room, and I figured someone could help me zip it up the rest of the way when I actually wore it.

### LL: What event were you planning to wear it to?

Julia: A friend of mine was having a costume party for Mardi Gras, complete with beads and Hurricanes. I wanted to wear the silver dress, with a feathery green mask and a bright red wig I'd bought. I drove to the party and changed in the car. The silver dress still wouldn't zip up all the way.

When I got inside, I asked for help getting it zipped up, only to find it actually was too small for my ribcage. Nothing anyone could do would ever get that dress closed.

#### LL: What on earth did you do?

Julia: I stood with my back to the wall for the rest of the party. Not only that, but the hostess had forgotten to tell anyone but me it was a costume party. "Oh well," she told me. "Sam's wearing a hat" and she pointed to a guy in a baseball cap. I attracted way more attention than I'd bargained for at that party.

# LL: You left the south and headed west to San Francisco. What effect did that have on your crossdressing?

Julia: Moving to the San Francisco Bay area definitely jump started my activities. If I had stayed in the south I might have eventually gotten out of the house on a day besides October 31st but San Francisco got me out much faster. Soon after I moved to San Francisco I went to a bisexual dance and wore another silver dress — this time one that actually fit me. I was still scared to wear a dress on the subway, so I got changed in the bathroom at the club where the dance was happening. The other bathroom was out of order, so a huge line accumulated while I struggled into my dress and my date did my makeup. We ended up letting guys come in and pee while I did my mascara. Not only that, but my bright red wig looked ridiculous with my outfit.

#### LL: Bad hair is a definite no, no.

Julia: We ended up trashing the wig, and after that I decided to go with my own hair most of the time when dressed up. I also learned that showing up at an event already dressed is way easier than changing there. I tried wearing men's clothes over a latex minidress once on the subway, but I nearly suffocated and attracted way more





attention than if I'd just worn the dress.

### LL: Well, especially in San Francisco. They're more concerned about your health than what you wear.

Julia: Even there it took a few months for me to be comfortable wandering in public in women's clothes. I had several scary-but-good experiences that helped me get more comfortable on display as a girl. I never really enjoyed dressing up behind closed doors, because there was nothing to do once I was dressed, other than check my email. And it never felt "real" to be a female out of sight of the world.

#### LL: Tell us about your worst adventure.

Julia: My scariest experience came when I went out as Wonder Woman for my first San Francisco Halloween. I sewed for hours to get the golden logo right on the red bustier, and found the perfect tiara, bracelets and boots. Then I went into the city and had a blast having my picture taken by tourists. A friend was supposed to pick me up in his car and drive me back to Oakland. He got lost and never showed up, so I was stuck in the city at midnight wearing only a skimpy super heroine costume.

### LL: That can be scary even in SF. What did you do?

Julia: It took all my Amazonian resolve to get on the subway and ride the last train back to the East Bay. One group of men in the subway station told me they were "gay bashers," but I just kept walking and they didn't follow me. I kept my head high and my pace fast but not panicked, and made it home OK.

### LL: Yeah, real gay bashers would have just bashed you. It always pays to act like you own the street.

Julia: After that crossdressing in public didn't seem as scary somehow. I knew one T-gal who always wore latex miniskirts and six inch heels on the street. She told me she just acted bold and confident, and people left her alone. I mostly wore sensible shoes or platforms when I crossdressed, which meant I could escape a prickly situation more easily than my fetishy friend.

LL: I haven't had anything as scary as having to take the subway to Oakland by myself but I did have a few minor events that made me realize worrying about what might happen would only keep me from going out and having a good time. What did you do after that?

Julia: I stopped being terrified and started having fun. I went to a big fancy swing dance with a woman friend. She wore a man's suit, wingtips and fedora. I wore a long red dress, heels and makeup. She led and I followed, and the singer in the big jazz band complimented us. I went to TG social groups and karaoke bars, and learned to enjoy the positive attention I received and ignore the negative. Soon I was going to the supermarket and the dentist in a dress.

### LL: In our communications to set up this interview you always included your male name in the messages. Most CDs never want to expose their male name to anyone.

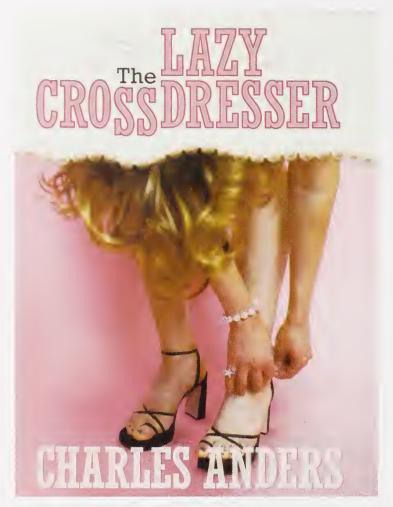
Julia: For a while, I went by Julia a lot. Now, I use Charles and Julia pretty interchangeably. I don't feel like Charles and Julia are two separate people, and I don't feel all that different whether I'm wearing a dress or pants. (Not that I wear pants very often anymore.) I noticed that my friends became flustered and worried about calling me the wrong name by mistake, so I made it clear to everyone I know that I'll answer to either name, whatever I'm wearing.

LL: That's a novel approach to that problem. A lot of the girls handle it by having two sets of friends, one that knows your male self and one that knows your female self. Your way sounds easier. Tell us about The Lazy Crossdresser. How did that come about?

Julia: I got the idea to write The Lazy Crossdresser after I wrote an article for the San Francisco Bay Guardian about where to shop for women's clothes in the city. Doing interviews for that article made me realize that a lot of people have tons of unbreakable rules for crossdressing in their heads.

continued on next page





LL: Oh yeah, I've never actually seen the CD Rule Book but there must be one from all the ideas people have about the "right" way to crossdress.

Julia: Yes, I asked many crossdressers to tell me embarrassing mistakes they'd made early on. What I heard was a lot of judgmental stuff, like "I used to wear a short skirt on the street, which is stupid," or: "You can't wear a dress without cinching your waist and padding your hips."

The more I learned about crossdressing, the more it seemed people were trapped by "shoulds" or "shouldn'ts." And it didn't seem like all these strictures were making people happier or more passable. The crossdressers I knew who were most obsessed with doing it "right" and looking "perfect" tended to appear the least comfortable, which stuck out like a broken nail.

I realized that if I followed all the rules people were dictating to me, I wouldn't have any fun wearing women's clothes. It would take me hours to get ready to go anywhere, and I'd probably be miserable by the time I got out the door. I wrote in the article that if crossdressing ever stopped being fun, I would stop doing it.

LL: Give us some of the "lazy" stuff you've picked up. Julia: Once I'd crossdressed full time for a while, I started just throwing on women's clothes over my male body. I still

had to cover my beard shadow with a heavy base, but I learned that too thick a layer of foundation would look worse than a teeny bit of visible stubble. Eventually, I got laser hair removal on my face, which solved the stubble problem. But first, I spent a year or so just letting people see a little shadow on my chin.

I mastered the art of "less is more." I learned to put together casual outfits that still looked cute to me. I recruited an army of all-purpose skirts that could go with a T-shirt or sweater. I didn't bother to pad my bust — plenty of girls are flat-chested — and I went minimalist with the makeup and jewelry.

LL: Sounds like you're dressing like a real girl. There is a tendency for some in our community to talk about the GGs who dress casually all the time as if there was something wrong with that. Just because you're not dressed to the nines all the time doesn't make you less of a woman.

Julia: Oh, I still love to get dolled up to go out at night. It's great to be able to wear more dramatic makeup, a shiny dress or skirt, and skyscraper heels. And sometimes I'll dress like that during the day, just for fun. The only rule I have now is that there are no rules.

# LL: That's a good rule to go by, or not. How about your parents? Do they know about your dressing?

Julia: Once I became more open about my crossdressing I started coming out to more people. I visited my parents and told them the first day. My mom was fascinated and asked lots of questions.

#### LL: Did she have any negative feelings about it?

Julia: Her main concern was that I avoid scratching my eyes with my mascara brush. She also wanted to know whether I was planning on taking hormones, which I wasn't. My dad seemed to accept it, but wasn't as curious as my mom.



# LL: That's great! I can't even imagine telling my parents. Actually I can and their reaction would not be curiosity.

Julia: My mom even started giving me outfits that she'd worn when she was my age, but couldn't wear any more. When she visited me in San Francisco, she brought a big bag full of gorgeous dresses and skirts, including one that my grandmother had made her. She never had a daughter, so she's enjoyed lavishing her hand-me-downs on me. She also gave me some brilliant jewelry and some great makeup.

# LL: Wow, you must have gotten some great stuff. You're a great person, but I have to hate you. Sorry, I'm OK now. Let's get back to your story. What about your workplace? Were there issues there about your crossdressing?

Julia: I telecommute, so I didn't need to come out to my coworkers until the book's release was imminent. Their main reaction was, "Cool!"

# LL: Well girl, you've got it going on. All the good vibes from family and friends, a book release and now a Lady-Like Profile. How long did it take you to write The Lazy Crossdresser?

Julia: It took me a year to finish the book.

# LL: Doesn't sound too lazy to me. Sounds like a lot of hard work at the word processor.

Julia: I learned a lot while writing it, both from interviewing tons of other crossdressers and from gaining more experience of my own. Even though it's a "how to" book, The Lazy Crossdresser doesn't tell crossdressers what to do. Instead, it offers lots of ideas and looks at every part of crossdressing separately. That way, people can decide which parts of the experience they want and which parts aren't important for them.

#### LL: Like what?

Julia: I've found some CDs don't want to shave their body hair, while others only want to wear lingerie behind closed doors instead of putting together a full outfit, stuff like that.

# LL: You sent us a photo of yourself on the set of the game show To Tell The Truth. Tell us about that.

Julia: It was part of publicizing the book and that's been a blast so far. I got to appear on To Tell The Truth and a panel of celebrities had to identify the real me. I sat on stage with two impostors, both of whom wore cute skirts and sweaters with heels. I wore a real Catholic schoolgirl uniform with Mary Janes. (I was happy to be wearing flats while my fellow "lazy crossdressers" struggled with heels.)

# LL: Sound like lot's of fun. Did they figure out that you were the real Lazy Crossdresser?

Julia: No. The celebrities on the panel, which included

Meshach Taylor, and a stand-up comic named Ant all thought it was one of the impostors, the guy who sat in the middle and had five 'o clock shadow.

# LL: Have you had any other experiences performing? Ever do any drag shows?

Julia: I got to perform onstage at Trannyshack, that's a local drag show that many crossdressers go to. I wore red spike heels and a pleated red miniskirt and lip-synched to Sheena Easton.

# LL: What words of wisdom would you like to share with our readers?

Julia: When I look back at the nervous girl in the feather mask and too-small glittery dress leaning against the wall at a party, I realize how hard I really worked to lose my fear and learn to shine as a girl. It was totally worthwhile, but I hope I can show other people some shortcuts I figured out along the way.





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### Thanks for a great interview

I wanted to write to congratulate you on an A-1 fantastic interview on me for LadyLike Issue #47. Being a Profile Girl really helped me to further understand and just as important, to love myself. The interview also helped me to overcome some personal demons and to give myself a new perspective on being Jocelyn and on life in general.

Deep down, I have always felt like a girl ever since I was young and I had more female friends and while dressed, I've had some interesting adventures. Hell, I once dated a *PlayGirl* model and he was nice. Once dressed up, my perspective totally changed and my mentality is totally feminine. To really understand the feminine mystique—what women think, how they feel, what women want about sex—is to experience life as a woman!

With my journalism background, I would one day love to write a story to contribute to the TG community. I am planning to get my own mailbox so I can hear from other TGs and admirers as well. So, until then, the only way to contact me is to email me. And Angela, I saw your photo in Mirror Mirror and you look wonderful, lovely and seductive. I am also working out and exercising more so I can one day slim down to maybe one day, become a TG model and to be even more seductive. JoAnn, you always look great and hopefully, if there is a special event in New York City one day, I would definitely go.

Thanks again for a lovely interview and once again, You Go, Girls! Love, Jocelyn Evelyn Rescott jocelyntvbabe@yahoo.com

#### Who wants sex with a CD?

There have been several interesting letters editorials and articles about crossdressing versus sexual preferences that seem to draw more and more attention. The opinions range from CDs with professed homosexual desires to heterosexual CDs who insist they prefer sex only with women. To continue the discussion, I am wondering who would want to have sex with a man dressed as a women? No matter how passable you are there will certainly be flaws. Also, I think most of us think we look a lot better than we actually do. I'm sure many of us girls have videotaped ourselves and there's a BIG difference between blurred, night time lighting and stark sunlight directly on your face.

I have searched for literature on this subject and have failed to find any significant evidence that women desire sex with men dressed as women. There is of course lots of literature about lesbian sex but none of it seems to include crossdressers. That leaves other men. I have heard that most homosexuals are not interested in another man trying to hide his own maleness. I cannot imagine any heterosexual man who would want sex with another man dressed like a woman. This leaves two other possibilities—other crossdressers and a catch-all group of



'others' which could include any fetish or deviates. Sex with another crossdresser seems possible and although I have never tried it, it seems the most likely outlet for CD sexual encounters. Of course there are a lot of wack'os out there but would you feel safe? I wouldn't

I believe sexual desire for anyone is based on perception, fantasy and the imagination. I know for a fact that many women fantasize about other men when making love to their partners. I too have thought of other women on occasion with my partner. The prelude to sex can be a short sexy dress for some, or a bulge in the pants for others. Perhaps you could think of the act of sex as a celebration of masculinity or femininity that we each are feeling during those passionate moments.

At the risk of being too candid I will say that for myself, although the thought of having sex with a man as a man is absolutely revolting, sex with a man when I am dressed as a women might be another case entirely. After all, when we are dressed, aren't we really women, at least in our minds? I know when I am dressed, I can allow myself to feel very different feelings and be at least partially another person. In other words, does having sex with a man when dressed as a women make you a homosexual? I think not. But this is tough terrain where most of us prefer not to tread.

But honestly – you can dress and fantasize all you want, but having sex with anyone that finds you attractive offers ultimate fulfillment for anyone – man or woman. Say what you want, but I believe our quest for femininity either has self-assured, self-set limits or becomes a contradiction between our true desires and what society and we ourselves cannot accept. I suspect many of us live in denial.

Thanks, Helen FW 3707

Angela replies: Gosh Helen, it seems you've spent a lot of time thinking about these issues. Believe me, everyone has their own spots on the spectrums of gender and sexual orientation. Most of us slid around on those spectrums, and while there is no direct link between the two. I tend to believe that it is easier to fall into a same sex experience if you are wearing spike heels and a tight red dress. It's not that hard to get turned on being with a man when you are already turned on by the way you are dressed. Don't make the mistake of considering that you are homosexual if you give in to temptation now and then while you're feeling passionate. That's why you have no attraction to men when you are not dressed. The dressing just jump starts your "va va va voom." And, don't be so quick to dismiss crossdressers having sex with women. There are many women who, if not actively turned on by their partner's crossdressing, are at least willing to integrate it into their love making and some come to find it sexy. I have personally known several women who were more than just accepting of my crossdressing; they really, really liked it. The point for them is not that you are perfect in your crossdressing but that there are some important differences between CDs and real women. Remember, it takes diversity to make the world go round.

#### **Finds LL Tastefully Done**

Dear JoAnn Roberts; Included is my check for the renewal of my LadyLike Magazine. I also include an extra \$25.00 for the TG Fund. I wish I could send a good picture of myself dressed up. Unfortunately, I am not very photogenic. I have a few pictures only, but I am not very satisfied with them. Maybe with time I will have some that will be acceptable. One possibility of getting good ones will be to prevail on your super photographer to take some photos of me during my next "Paradise in the Poconos" this coming November.

I have found LadyLike very tastefully done. I always look forward to receiving it. The letters and the articles are very enlightening. I like the personal anecdotes articles. I specially enjoy your Flash Back series, in particular the one about Finocchio since I had been fortunate enough to have visited it. My first encounter with LadyLike was in June 2000 at a store for transgender people. I bought two issues and I was truly impressed. It was exactly what I had been looking for so many years. In August, on returning from a six week trip to Canada, I attempted to contact a local group whose address I found in LadyLike. Unfortunately, they were no longer in existence. I sent you an e-mail requesting info on them and other groups. You were kind enough to direct me to TGEA in Washington, D.C.. The president Yvonne Martin, was exceptionally helpful and I was invited to my first meeting on 9 September 2000. I joined the group that very first evening. Shortly after, I sent for my reservation to Paradise in the Poconos 2000. These events were a tremendous eye opener as I never knew that there existed any such a thing as a support group or any organization such as yours. I wish I had

learned of the support available to members and to their SOs years ago before my wife of 40 years passed away in 1998. I might have had better support and acceptance from my wife in that department. As it was, I had to settle for and be satisfied with conditional tolerance.

Having had to suppress and hide my inclinations since the age of about six, and being introverted by nature, I have always found it difficult to allow myself to make personal close friends and never could confide in anyone. Until now, our friends were almost exclusively through my wife, who I jokingly referred to as the family social director. She was the extrovert. I had a wonderful life with her except on the subject of my dressing up. Although I wore feminine undergarments long before I married her, it was only during the last 20 years or so that she accepted that I wear night gowns and high heels in the house, (she even occasionally bought me undergarments and night gowns). I never graduated to dresses or blouses and skirts until after her death. Now that I have lost my social director but found this wonderful group of transgender people, I hope that I will be able to make new friends. After a lifetime of repressed feelings and keeping my true inner self hidden, I hope that it will not be too late to do so.

I send my love to all my sisters, both the introverts and those fortunate enough to be able to express themselves openly. Looking forward to the November festivities.

#### Adrienne P. FWD#4022

Angela sez: Making friends isn't that hard Adrienne. You've taken the first step of going to a group. Now all you have to do is smile and say hello. Have fun!

#### Missed Hot Babes & Hot Rods

JoAnn: I'm including the last picture Patti LeGary took in February 1999 before she decamped for Hawaii. I should have sent it for the sports car issue, but it didn't happen. The car is a classic (a 1966 Charger which I bought new. I'm the original owner)



and has won an award which put it in a national Dodge Charger competition for 2000, and came in second. I'll try for another picture with another person later!

I have not been so active in recent years, age being the primary culprit. Still, the mind is active, the body has not retired from active pursuit of a livelihood. I get a parole every once in a while, so that my skills are still viable. I promise to try in these-next years to respond with photos as I have in the past.

And in keeping with my better side, I became the only male member of our local American Association of University Women three years ago and am cur-

rently serving on their board. Oh boy! If they only knew about me, what a wonderful experience it would be for them, as well as for me. But unfortunately, neither my spouse of 37 years nor any of the members have a clue! It puts a crimp in things, but it is for the best, believe me. It has been a wonderful experience, and I'm glad I'm doing it. Maybe in another life I will reveal my other side.

Love and hugs, Lois E. Fisher, P.O. Box 3781 Eureka, CA 95502-3781

#### **Never Been Disappointed**

Dear LadyLike, I think that I may be one of your early subscribers having all *LadyLike* issues beginning with Number 1 and having member number 220. I would like to congratulate you on never having published a disappointing issue. More important, over time, they have steadily improved. Congratulations on a fine magazine. I, too, would like to see a yearly Mirror/Mirror issue and promise not to be confused with the numbering. Please consider the enclosed photographs for publication. Sincerely, Jayne Otto, 35873 Blakesley Creek Road, Philomath, Oregon 97370



### Miffed About Being Called "Sir"

Dear LadyLike: I am retired and have been enjoying crossdressing for many, many years and would like to get your view on some matters of concern, I don't often get the opportunity to practice crossdressing, just the occasional weekend now and again. My wife is unaware of my activities and I feel it is in our best interests that it remain so. But, this is my problem and only I can and must deal with it.

Recently, I went away on a long weekend and had a wonderful time as Elizabeth, my alter ego, On the whole, all went well and I like to think that I passed as a woman; certainly, the more I get out in public the greater my confidence. But, inevitably, and it always seems to happen, someone called me "sir." I realize it's a very minor thing but it's always a downer and can ruin the day. Why do some people do this? Can't they keep it to themselves and do me the courtesy of addressing me as "ma'am?" It's such a small favor

to ask. It would appear that some people can't make the distinction between sex or gender and the psychological emotional conversion that takes place when I go forth as a woman. When I assume the identity of my alter ego I become Elizabeth and take great pride, joy and comfort in it.

I realize that I'm far from perfect. No amount and variety of makeup, no matter how expertly applied ( and I am far from being an expert), can alter my large male nose and chin. Very frustrating, especially when I study myself closely in the mirror. But the important thing is that I take great pride in looking like a woman, being well-dressed and stepping out with confidence. But there are always those meanspirited few who will insist on addressing me as "sir." Is it spite? Prejudice? If you wish to read between the lines, I desperately wish to pass as a woman 100 percent of the time but despite my best efforts there will always be those who will read me as a genetic male. Frustrating, I sometimes wish I had been born with a smaller head, nose, chin, and shoulders less broad.

Finally, I realize that confidence comes with being associated with other crossdressers but attempts to establish confact with support groups nearby have been singularly unsuccessful. They just don't respond. I realize, too, that I am laboring under some major handicaps: the need for secrecy, the difficulty in finding the time, money and pretext to get away, and living in a small community that lacks a support group of its own.

In conclusion, it isn't easy being a crossdresser, not to mention the expense — over the years I have spent a small fortune on dresses, suits, pretty lingerie, accessories — but it's worth the effort, only wish I could do it more often. Sorry to unload on you like this but any comments, thoughts, advice or insights would be most welcome. Yours truly, Elizabeth

Angela replies: I must admit Elizabeth, I don't know how you do it. Keeping your dressing secret, hiding the cash you spend on femme stuff and arranging excuses to go away so you can dress. If you analyze it logically you'll see that it might take less energy to tell your spouse about how you feel and work slowly toward a day when you can go away with her knowledge.

As for the passing issue, fhugeddaboudit! It will only drive you crazy. Those who call you ma'am are most likely so wrapped up in themselves that they wouldn't notice if you were a gorilla, or they are being polite. Those who call you "sir" are not necessarily being spiteful. Some people just get confused when they see a man dressed as a woman and aren't sure what pronoun or honorific to use. You can tell the spiteful ones. There is an extra edge of sarcasm that those trying to be respectful will not use. In either case just say, "I prefer ma'am." I see that your town is in upstate New York. There are several groups up there and their contact info is in our Resource section. Sometime you have to be persistent with these groups. Keep trying.

#### **She Wants To Reenlist?**

Hi, Please find enclosed, my check for reenlistment in the *LadyLike* Army for one more year. I've also included \$5 for the TG Fund. I've also enclosed a photo for Mirror-Mirror. Thank you for a fantastic magazine! My only regret is that I didn't subscribe much sooner. But, as a plaque on my grandmother's

continued on page 13

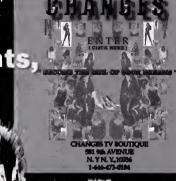
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## Letters...

wall once ready "Ve get too soon oldt, undt too late schmart." Actually, I wasn't aware that we had a magazine that didn't convey the message that we were all forced into femininity by a buxom lady in hip boots who was totin' a bull whip. Your magazine, or may I say our magazine, is such a welcome respite from the run-of-the-mill. Please continue your fine efforts and I'll be a subscriber 'til one of us is just a fond memory. Sincerely, Regina Rose Lynn

Ange sez: You mean you weren't recruited in fifth grade by a lady with a bull whip? Stand at attention when we're typing at you corporal!

#### **About Those Bust Enhancers**

Hi JoAnn and staff. Thank you very much for printing my letter and publishing my picture. It hasn't even been a week and already two responses. I know you get tired of receiving ink jet pictures (as) I myself made that mistake. I only recently found your magazine so please be kind to those of us who don't know better. This may also be a repetitive question but I have to ask, and, because it involves an advertiser in your magazine you may wish to write me back or edit this letter. For awhile I have been hearing about Bloussant [a product which claims] to enhance bust size by two cup sizes. In LadyLike an advertiser has a similar product. I know it's risky to take such medications without the supervision of a doctor but I have been contemplating just that. My question would be, do these products work? And the same advertiser sells Hair No More. I realize this isn't a permanent solution to unwanted hair but do you know if either of the two anti-hair products work? And if so, how long do they last?

I also must say I like every issue even better. The cover was fantastic. I'm able to relate to something in each one, as well as articles by Brenda [Lawrence]. I have written several [girls] that have appeared in this latest issue. And judging from the results from your publishing my latest photo I'm sure I'm going to start getting out more and may end up full time. I am planning to have my facial hair removed along with one other minor detail. I'm really looking forward to having girlfriends to do things with. It will be a welcome change from going out by myself, not to mention having a girlfriend to talk with.

I have been part of two groups and many in them seem to try and hold on to their masculinity even during transition or completely living as a female. Or maybe it was me. Either way it wasn't for me. I am glad to have made their acquaintance just the same. I am hoping that as a result of the correspondence I will be able to really experience the things I long for. And it's kind of hard to get to know someone during a short monthly group. It's important to go out and do things in public, simple things like shopping or getting gas would be much more fun with a girlfriend. I know of wish your magazine was a monthly issued one. I'm enclosing a special picture of myself. And once again thank you all very much. I'll be looking forward to the next issue.

Chrissy Ellen PMB 203 1115 E. Ridge Road Griffith, IN 46319-1398

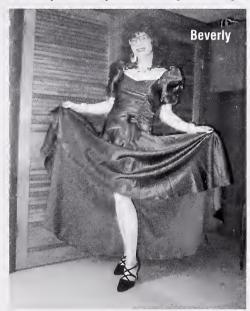
Angela responds: If you look on the first page of our magazine you will find a notice (in small print, but there) that

states, "Publisher does not endorse any advertisements except her own, nor is she responsible for ad content or claims. Caveat Emptor!" That means ya pays yer money and ya takes yer chances. I have no personal experience with the products so I can't tell you if they work or not.

I hope it all works out with you finding girlfriends through response to your letters and photos in LL. However, even though the girls at the group may not be what you expected you at least have met them in the flesh. Why don't you give them another chance? Whatever you do, have fun.

#### Sally's Hideaway Girls Astounding!

Dear Angela: Ladylike just keeps getting better and better. Looking through issue #46, I continue to be amazed and intrigued by the ways of expressing femininity found in the Reader's Letters and Mirror-Mirror. It's a great way to let others know of someone's exploration of femininity. The photos of the ladies from Sally's Hideaway are astounding. Their images



import an almost ethereal quality as they revel in their exhilarating expressions of alluring graceful femininity. For example, Paulette is breathtaking in her combination of innocence and worldliness. I like the way Brian Lantelme puts it in his article: "..it is in a spirit of awe and wonderment at the expression of freedom and the strong, flawed, fearless, tragic, and heroic humanity I found at Sally's Hideaway."

Recently I finished reading *The Woman I Was Not Born to Be: A Transsexual Journey* by Aleshia Brevard. In it she relates her transformation from Alfred "Buddy" Brevard Crenshaw, born in rural Tennessee, to Aleshia Brevard having had SRS at the Westlake Clinic in Los Angeles in 1962. Recounting her experiences, both amazing and harrowing, she reveals her courage, warmth and resilience. But it's too bad there are people who have been unable to find it in their hearts to tolerate or appreciate such extraordinary individuals. The world would definitely be a poorer, and less interesting place without such amazing people.

I found the article by Brenda Lawrence very interesting and wish her all the best. I've enclosed two photos for your consideration. It's always a privilege to be included among the lovely ladies of LadyLike. Love, Beverly



#### A Little Over-eager

Hi JoAnn and Angela, *LadyLike* is so good I lost track of how many I got! I've never been in a rush to pay for something before! So, now I'm good till October 2002, that's great! This last issue was great. I've seen some of the girls I correspond with and they look great! And I was looking at Angela's photo and she looks sassy with curls! Thank you for publishing the best transgender magazine. Your magazine has helped me a lot in my transformation. And Brenda Lawrence has become a great friend and now I'm having fun. I've been out of the closet for one year. It's a lot of fun being a girl! I'm sending another photo for Mirror-Mirror. Thanks for all your hard work. You'll never know how much you have helped me with your classy magazine. I've learned to be a lady!

All my love, Alison Van Horn

#### **An Unusual Fantasy**

Dear JoAnn, Congratulations on your continued fine job! Your magazine simply sets the standard in our community! I also enjoy the classy layout, photos from readers and information articles. I have enclosed some recent photos: dressy and work looks, Playboy Bunny, last Halloween, and my latest... a maternity look! I was coaxed into being a



pregnant lady by a friend of mine who had just had a baby. She donated her entire maternity wardrobe to me! Voila! I was seven months pregnant. Also after fooling some mutual friends at a party, they were shocked that I smoked and drank in my condition.

continued on page 15







# The Transgender Fund

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## Letters...

Since then I have enjoyed going out in my "condition." Both men and women treat you very differently when you're pregnant. Sometimes I get tired of being asked when I'm "due." Take care and I'd love to hear stories and some photos from your other readers. Best regards, Ellen McKinnon PO Box 261326 San Diego, CA 92196

Angela scolds: See what happens when you are a LadyLike covergirl? Soon you're knocked up! Have fun Ellen but keep in mind, you're not really pregnant! Now that would be a strange child.

#### Doesn't Think She's Ready

Dear Angela, what great service! And to think that for two years I drove 175 miles roundtrip just for the chance of maybe finding a *LadyLike* magazine on a rack. (The nerve to obtain a PO box has opened up a whole new world of possibilities for me.) My subscription was filled in 10 days and my recent request for Issues #43 and #44 in less than five! A million thanks to JoAnn, you and the entire *LadyLike* staff for offering such incredible customer service.



I can add nothing to what's already been said by your admirers. You're terrific and thank you for being there for us. You, your contributing writers, the Roxies, Brenda Lawrence, et al., and the Mirror-Mirror girls are the lifeline to a confused individual. I'm in the closet and only take the chance to become Krystal on very rare occasions. I've never knowingly met another crossdresser but in the past six weeks I've written to a couple of girls whose addresses were listed in letters and Mirror-Mirror. No responses yet, but I'm sure their mailboxes get busy soon after a new issue comes out.

As much as I'd love to check out a support group or attend a function, I don't think I'm ready to take that step. My dream for now is to someday have the opportunity to sit down and talk one-on-one with another sister who's walking the walk and talking the talk. I'm sending a couple of photos taken last month when the "opportunity arose" to bring my other self out into daylight. I realize that they might be a little rough since this was only my second attempt at "self photography." Forgot to smile on my first try and they turned out awful. (You're always right aren't you?) So, if they measure up to your quality standards please flatter me by publishing anything submitted. As you can see I have broad shoulders and can stand any criticism sent my way. Passing isn't all important to me as I'm only trying to impress myself. Being presentable is the direction I'm going toward.

Sincerely, Krystal FW#4124

Angela says: Well Krystal, you're perfectly presentable and yes, I am always right. Especially about the importance of a smile. It lights up your face and brings out your femininity. I know you may not consider yourself ready for a group but from what I see you're more than ready in the looks department. Contact a group and next time let us hear about your adventures at a meeting.

#### Hey Helen, Pay Attention, GG with TV!

Dear JoAnn and Staff, I just purchased the recent issue of *LadyLike* and saw one of my photos as I flipped through as I was rushing to do errands. It was taken at a shoe store I go to dressed. The staff (female) are always so sweet to me and love when I stop in to see them. Here are some more recent photos of me for you to publish if you wish.

Tonight I'm gonna sit and read through, slowly, this issue. I have to say *LadyLike* is the best transgender mag to come along. It's very informative and classy and clean. Keep up the good work.



The photo of me on the in the lavender shirt was taken at my girlfriend's apartment as we were heading out. Mylissa and I have been dating for six months and it's pretty serious. She met me at a place I go to a lot in Westchester County (NY) and she thought I was a real girl! She loves me as both. Anyway, I want to thank you for your wonderful mag and putting my photos in. I've made a few new pen pal sisters. Thanks again. Love, Stephanie

#### **Knows Her Limits**

Dear *LadyLike*, This lovable little princess wants her photo in *LadyLike*. I am currently working on



electrolysis but don't know what to do about my voice. Somebody help me please! Pretty please? My goal is to present myself well as a woman when I want to and to present well as a man when I want to. My wife is OK about this, but she does have her limits. I can be a girl around the house as much as I want to. She helps me buy clothes and stuff and we even dress up together. I don't go out yet but I'm looking forward as I progress in my transition while at the same time we continue to gain acceptance. I await the day when it all comes together. I will answer all who write to me, cross my heart and hope to die, stick a needle in my eye. By sharing what works for us with each other we can all "come out" ahead. Love you all, Ms. Michaelo FWD#3965

Angela replies: If you want to tread the road of passing in both roles you have to be very careful. If you remove your beard you will look better as a woman but as a man you will look odd since there is no beard shadow. As far as voice altering, you need to practice, practice, practice. You need to have some techniques to practice so I recommend a visit to the CDS bookstore <www.cdspub.com> to look over the books and videos we offer. Feminine voice is more than just a matter of pitch. There are different inflections and even different words that are used by women. If you are not yet out of the house enfemme (and remember to negotiate that with your spouse) then you may want to work on your look and body language before investing too much time in speech issues. Remember princess, when applying makeup, blend, blend, blend! Have fun!

#### Fan Since Issue #1

Dearest JoAnn and Angela, I have been an avid fan of Ladylike since the very first issue. Having recently been divorced I am now free to express the part of my life that your magazine inspires and which gives me such fulfillment. I am so glad that *LadyLike* has remained sophisticated yet sexy, and dedicated to girls who love femininity without surgery, and a

continued on page 42



# To Goddess & Beyond...

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Bianca & Morganna

# Affordable Fantasies eð Illusions Fashion Shoot

One day, after we had put the last issue to bed the phone at the *LadyLike* offices rang it's distinctive feminine tone and caught our attention. Who was on the other end when we answered? The fabulous folks at Affordable Fantasies & Illusions. Tyler, the dude who calls the shots in that little fashion empire wanted to know if we'd consider publishing some photos of items from his new catalog so our devoted readers could appreciate to the fullest the line of clothing they have designed and manufactured especially for CDs.

We thought about it for a minute and then said to ourselves, why just run some pictures? Let's do it up right with a full fledged fashion shoot. And, who else could we entrust this mission to but our very best high fashion models, former Profile girl Sarah Thomas (LL#37) and our own Editor, Angela Gardner. Add in the photo magic of our own Miranda and the styling assistance of another former Profile girl, Amanda Richards (LL#39), and you've got a heady, fab, fashion happenin'.

We immediately contacted our pal Nathan, the owner of a great little restaurant and watering hole in Philadelphia called L2. (If you're in Philly and want a good place to dine and drink stop in to visit L2 at 2201 South Street.) Nathan's upstairs bar was just the spot we needed as a backdrop for the fun fashions from AFI.

So, in short order our team was assembled and on the spot. The fashion commandos had arrived and after the dust (and glitter) cleared it's apparent again the old phrase Angela used in her editorial this month is still true after all these years: "Girls just wanna have fun!" Enjoy!

See AFI's ad on page 19.



Sarah is wearing AFI's flirty swing skirt (#SWG01)in red, with satin button down blouse in white (#BTN01).





Angela is wearing AFI's latest cap-sleeved stretch lace top (#CP01) with their new 16-inch mini skirt (SLT01). Check that slit!

# Sizzling New Zashions froms fordable Fantasies &

This Winter is an exciting time for us here at AFI. We are presenting our third season of new clothing especially made for the crossdresser community. We have added many new exciting styles and colors and hope that you will enjoy the correctly fitting garments made with wider shoulders, lowered waistlines, longer sleeves and more narrow hips. We strive for the best overall fit for our customers and feedback has been very positive with all of our pieces. If you want to see a free brochure of our best selling items, Please call 1-800-222-1427 to receive a free color brochure or if you want the full catalog, then send \$3.00 to the address listed below and we will be sure to get a catalog right out to you. To order any clothing listed below - put your chest and waist size on the order form

here and we will send you the correctly sized item.



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projected plus the finish is a matte finish so they look more realistic when attached. Sizes: B, C, D, DD. make sure you specify your chest size when ordering. Price for pair \$279.95. Price with adhesive and remover \$294.95



Style: #Babydoll Great new Patent pump with a 4 inch thick heel. Great sturdy, sexy heel. Colors: Black, White Sizes: 7 - 14M Low Price \$43.15

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# The AFI Fashion Shoot



■ Angela is wearing a jewel blue button down satin blouse (#BTN01) with black 16 inch slit mini (#SLT01), while Sarah is wearing AFI's newest empire waisted flare dress with lace sleeves and bodice inset (#EMPLC)



▲ Here Angela is relaxing at the bar in AFI's Princess Seamed dress (#DR05) in majestic purple. The dress has slits on both sides of the skirt.

Angela shows us the AFI stretch velvet separates; top (#VL01), and skirt with side slit (#VL02). Sarah is wearing AFI's sexy slimming jacket and skirt suit (#JKT01 and #SK01) ▼



Here's Angela again in the Princess Seamed dress (#DR05). Nice butt girl! ▼



# AFI Fashion Shoot



Here is Sarah again wearing AFI's empire waisted flare dress with lace sleeves and bodice inset (#EMPLC)







Angela is wearing the jewel color button blouse (#BTN01) in Royal Blue and black stretch mini skirt (#SLT01). Sarah is wearing the lace bodice flare dress (#EMPLC01).

# AFI Fashion Shoot



▲ The girls pose at the bar. Sarah is wearing AFI's swing skirt (#SWG01) with a white satin button blouse (#BTN01). Angela is wearing AFI's Princess Seamed dress (#DR05) in majestic purple. The dress has slits on both sides.

The girsl look great in their new rags and take a short break from the shoot.

Visit AFI's website at: www.crossdress.net



▲ It's tough to wear white well, but Sarah looks great in AFI's new sexy jacket and skirt suit (#JKT01 & #SK01).



LadyLike • 21

# What Have You Done For Her Lately?

If statistics are correct, and they are usually pretty close, the vast majority of us have significant others, be they wives, girlfriends or a close relationship to someone of the opposite sex. That is the "her" I'd like to talk about in this column, not the 'her' you become after tossing on a dress. I'm aware that a lot of you CDs out there have never told your SO about your crossdressing, but my guess is that most of us have either spilled the beans or at worse case got caught in the act and now she knows. However the case may be, we humans on the male side of the equation are usually hardwired at the factory to desire a mate that is of the female persuasion. Putting it bluntly, we like women (I guess I could have said that at the beginning).

Being males, we take care of that woman we attach ourselves to—they are, after all, the 'weaker' sex. Being crossdressers as well, we have another woman in our life that also needs a lot of care. And I wonder if, in our fascination with becoming and caring for that 'other' woman, we sometimes forget about our responsibility to the first woman. Think about it—what HAVE you done for that wonderful lady in your life lately? As a relationship ages, we become more relaxed with each other and often forget about taking time to do something special for that other person. Remember when you were first attracted to her and you rearranged your life, crawled on your hands and knees over a mountain of broken glass and bent steel in your bare hands to impress her? Ok, so maybe it wasn't quite that extreme.

My wife and I just celebrated our wedding anniversary by doing absolutely nothing special. Zip. Zero. Oh, I brought it up (first time I actually mentioned it before she did in many a year), but the day went like any other. I went to work, she handled the house... and her stable of horses, and checked on her mother who lives across the street in a house we had built for her, and took care of our many pets, and interacted with our daughter who temporarily lives with us with her two daughters, and so on. It was just another day in our lives. This is not to say that I haven't done anything special on this or other occasions. To keep our lives interesting, my wife never knows when I'll go all out or just totally ignore some special day. Take Valentine's Day, 2001.

We had been discussing remodeling our old, tired kitchen for many months. but neither of us quite knew what we wanted to do with it. One thing was definitely sure, the old leaky faucet in the sink had to go. I put off replacing it for a long time, and I have no idea why. It only took me half an hour to do the job when I finally did it. About two days before Valentine's, I was going to work when the old light bulb lit up and I knew what stunt I was going to pull off to surprise my wife. I had previously looked at faucet sets and had mentally picked out what I would buy. Just bringing home a new kitchen faucet hardly makes the ground move, unless you do it the way I did.

When my wife got up on the morning of Valentine's Day, sitting in her favorite chair in the living room where she routinely enjoys her morning coffee was a huge white Teddy Bear adorned with red ribbon and a heart necklace. I found that at Target. On each arm of the bear was tied a helium filled red balloon. One said "Be My Valentine" and the other said "Happy Valentine's Day." Got those at a local food store. Under each arm was a small heart-shaped box of assorted chocolates (hey, I gotta get something out of this!) that I spotted in K-mart. Between the paws of the bear was the brand new faucet set. Well, I sure got a big hug for that! The following weekend I actually installed the faucet and as if that were the catalyst, we both suddenly ran ideas past each other and the remodeling began. She now has a beautifully redone kitchen that we both shared the work of doing.

I have brought home little and sometimes BIG gifts for no occasion what-so-ever. For this past Mother's Day she got a fresh cherry pie (her favorite) from one of the better bakeries in our area. For an absolute no-event-at-all day, I brought her a necklace I saw in a mall jewelry store as I was just passing by. It had a pendant with a white horse on it that nearly matched her favorite horse she's owned for over 20 years. We've never seen another necklace like it before or since, and the clerk who sold it to me said the store bought it on a whim with a couple of others that featured animals.

Some holidays my wife will walk out in the morning and find a particular room filled with helium balloons that are printed with messages relating to that holiday, while other times she might get a butterscotch sundae from the ice cream shop I pass on the way home from work. Just as often there'll be nothing. For her recent birthday I remodeled the front of the stable where she keeps the horses. I replaced several stall doors and built a huge eve over them to keep out the weather that often soaked the floors and shavings spread out for each horse. And just for the heck of it, I installed soft lighting under the eve and she can now look out the window at night and see what her hay-burners are doing. Believe me when I tell you that a horse can get into more trouble than a sex-starved crossdresser at a porno convention!

My wife kinda liked one particular set of earrings that I wore, which I had converted to clip ons (no extra holes needed in my head,). Since they were cheapies from one of those typical nationwide mall stores, I bought her about a dozen pairs of them and gave them to her on a non-event weekday. That way she have enough for a long time since their quality was dubious — we CDs never wear things out as we always see something cuter or better to buy... don't we! Every Christmas I buy my wife a "snow person" rather than something special. And this has become something even more special each year. Those of you that write to me have seen the snow people in the background of my pictures, and it literally takes her a week before Christmas to get them all out of storage and arrange them all over the house, each time in a slightly different setting or pose.

One time I merely recharged the air conditioning on her car for a special holiday, and another she got a diamond tennis bracelet. She actually treats holidays with no gifts as something special, because she knows that on some stupid, ordinary Tuesday she'll get some kind of crazy gift. Like the brand new air ratchet I bought 'her' this past Friday. Okay, so that was for me, but I told her I had to use the money set aside for her to get this badly needed tool for my shop. So in a sense, it was her gift (boy, that's a stretch if there ever was one).

All our married life she has never had to work to support our family - that was my job. Hers was to raise a family and care for them (take that, you feminists out there). Believe it or not, that's what she wanted to do. And believe me, that's a far bigger job than bringing home a paycheck every week, because the hours are longer and the gratification isn't always there. And then to put up with a husband that likes

to wear her clothes? It takes a special person to do all that and I try to let her know how I appreciate it in both serious and silly ways. We all know, however, that life isn't all that simple and straightforward. We've had our battles and you learn to work them out. Of course, today's selfish adults run right to a lawyer and divorce court, but when you find a gem like I did you quickly learn to adjust your needs and negotiate a truce that works for both of you.

I know most of us that crossdress spend a lot of money (right, Roxy?) on our girl-selves, but what have you done for HER lately? The number ONE girl in your life who you need a lot more than your alter-ego who messes with your mind and makes you do crazy things. Naturally if there's no one special right now, you have ol' Brenda's permission to go out and buy that yummy new dress you've had your eye on for some time.

Now that I have you all feeling guilty, take that special someone out to dinner tonight and tell them Brenda recommended it... unless, of course, they aren't aware of LadyLike and what you do on those days off.

I don't think most girls get warm and fuzzy over a 3/8-inch drive air ratchet, though.





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# Send Your Photos!





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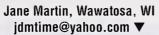
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# ModelSearch 2001

ModelSeach 2001 is the fourth annual celebration of *The Best of Female Illusionist* contest in San Francisco. Contestant come from all over the nation and the world: San Francisco, LA, NYC, Las Vegas, Chicago; and as far away as London.

The shows open with cocktailwear (not judged) that is choreographed to make the girls loosen up a bit and test their catwalk skills with other models in a runway scenario. This is followed by Swimwear and Eveningwear categories. All scores are tallied and the top 12-semi finalist are announced as Miss January to Miss December.

Also awarded are special awards such as Miss Friendship, Miss Popularity, Miss Photogenic, Best in Swimsuit, Best in Eveningwear, and Best in Catwalk.

The 12 finalists are interviewed by the emcee according to what they have written in their bios. Scores are added and the top four winners are crowned Miss Spring, Miss Summer, Miss Autumn and Miss Winter.

All judges are industry profesionals such as Modelling Agency Directors, Photographers, Fashion Designers, Models, Hair and Make-up Artists, Fashion Editors and Celebrities.

Griselda is the producer and creator of ModelSearch. As a proffesional model/actress she developed the referral agency called Modelfile. Net. Most of previous winners of ModelSearch had been booked on several independent movies, TV commercials, TV series, fashion shows and music videos.

Here are the top four winners. Many other photos are available at the ModelSearch website:

http://www.modelfile.net





# ModelSearch 2001















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# The Transgender Fund

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# Tu deviendras fille! You Will Become a Girl!

About a year ago a reader requested an article on the origins of feminization fantasy books. We wish we could thank her by name, but Ms Bob moved her office this summer and the original correspondence is still packed. The letter may be lost, but the question hasn't been forgotten. In feminization stories boys or young men are placed in circumstances that compel them to engage in some form of transgendered behavior. What they're forced to do could be as innocent as taking a girl's role in a school play or as all-consuming as a complete change of sex and sexual orientation. There's always a woman in the plot. When the necessity to crossdress seems to be fated and beyond anyone's control, the woman can be supportive. She may even be or become romantically involved with the constrained crossdresser.

At other times the woman is the reason for the man's gender transgression. This is usually done in one of two ways. The first is found in mainstream plots. Here the man is about college age and he becomes a hero by impersonating a woman. Perhaps he'll rescue a woman from a cruel fate or dastardly deed. Perhaps he disguises himself to be with the woman he loves. No matter how the plot turns, he'll be a man and a hero when the curtain comes down. This device can be found in plots from "Charlie's Aunt" to "Bosom Buddies."

The second type of tale is more pornographic. Unlike the previous cases the reason for crossdressing isn't fated, rather those stronger than the reluctant transgenderist will it. The feminization is usually forced, sometimes supportive, and almost always there's a group of women dominating a boy or teenager, turning him into a girl at least temporarily, for their own reasons.

The genre of short, inexpensive books about feminization probably goes back to the Industrial Revolution that produced the steam-driven printing press and cheap, commercially manufactured paper. This make it possible to mass-produce inexpensive books. The spread of state-sponsored universal elementary education in Western Europe in the second half of the 19th century combined with these technological advances to open a new reading market among the lower middle classes and even the working class. Publishers catered to these new

readers by creating new genres. These included books on a wide range of pornography, feminization accounts among them. (Publisher's note: Didn't know you were gettin' a history lesson, didja?)

Today this tradition is carried by probably half a dozen publishers, who market their titles exclusively to men aroused by crossdressing. Most, like Sandy Thomas, Reluctant Press or Empathy Press, publish digests, which measure about 5 1/2" X 8 1/2." Usually they're under 100 pages in length. These publishers probably produce two to three hundred titles annually. Though all the earliest stories we've been able to read feature forced feminization, like The Petticoat Dominant from 1898, today there are some stories with a more supportive & understanding anima.

Two virtually impossible to find French books of this genre are *Fridoline* (1926) and *Tu deviendras fille!* (1935), both by the pseudonymous and highly prolific

continued on next page





His face was transformed and embellished once more.

Don Brennus Alra. We are indebted to **Gerard Koskovich**, San Francisco-based dealer in rare queer books and member of the board of directors of the **GLBT Historical Society**, for making them available to *LadyLike* readers and for translating excerpts of the texts. Both titles were published by Select-Bibliothque, one of a number of French publishers active from the beginning of the 20th century to World War II. They sold books by correspondence and probably through semi-illicit traveling salesmen working clubs with racy floor shows, licensed houses of prostitution and anywhere else you'd find the sex industry plying its trade.

The author of both books, Don Brennus Alra, was the publisher and owner of Select-Bibliothque. The spelling and sound of his name are distinctly un-French—and the Don is presumably to be read as the Spanish title, roughly equivalent to Mister. The BDSM Art Collective Internet site suggests that the name is a near-anagram for either Bernard Valonnes or Roland Brevannes. Gerard points out that it was a common practice for French authors of books on racy subjects to construct pen names using strange permutations

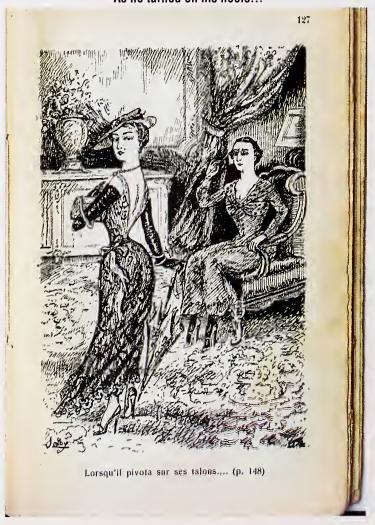
of the writers real name, perhaps mixed with other elements, like the name of the authors home town.

Supposedly Henri Pauwels published Don Brennus Alra's first book in 1905. Its success enabled Alra to start Select-Bibliotheque in 1906. He published almost 100 books by the time it closed 33 years later. His output was dedicated to studying, "the strangest aberrations of passion in a suite of works overflowing with life and with the picturesque." He was very prolific, if he actually wrote all the books attributed to him. The French National Library, Bibliotheque Nationale, credits over 70 titles to his pen, while the BDSM Art Collective site lists close to 100.

In the Select-Bibliotheque catalogue his English translations have titles like *The Underground Haunt, In Satin Slippers and Fetters of Steel, White Women Slaves* and *Under the Yoke in Louisiana*. Judging from the titles, most of his stories seem to involve crossdressing, though he also wrote stories like *The Female Slave in Gloves* and *Chateau of the Whip*.

One element about these early racy books which remains true today, is that they aren't racy to everyone. They're written according to a common formula in pornog-

As he turned on his heels...





Trying on the shoes caused real shame for Maurice.

raphy where the heart of the book, the sexy parts, are separated by bad dialogue and lame plot development. Books of transgendered interest often fixate on the most fetishistic aspects of crossdressing. So the "good" parts of these tales are the endless descriptions of the feminine clothing the boys are forced to wear and incredible detail lavished to their toilette. One example from Fredoline is the young boy's visit to the beauty parlor. It goes on for 25 pages, over ten percent of the book! Every detail from the color of the nail polish to the stroke of the makeup brush is lovingly rendered. This extravagant length is incomprehensible to anyone who does not share a fetishistic interest in women's clothing. These scenes hold no erotic charge for other readers, spouses, friends, lovers or helping professionals. At best they're puzzling and at worst boring.

Tu deviendras fille..!, in English this translates as You Will Become a Girl! It's a short book, only 155 pages of rather large type, which could easily be read in an evening. The book includes a cover illustration and plates reproducing somewhat naive line-drawings signed Selby, all of them featuring fashions and interior decor more closely resembling the styles of 1910 than those of 1935. At the core of

the plot is a widow, Madame de Martinprey, who forces her teenage son, Maurice, to live as a girl.

French readers would instantly recognize Madame de Martinprey's family name as an aristocratic one. Decadent aristocrats played well to working class and lower middle class readers, who were always ready to be thrilled by the hedonistic fantasy world in which such characters lived. They were also willing to believe the worst about those selfish idlers who seemed to have an endless supply of ready cash. In the Paris of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there certainly were highly visible aristocrats whose style of life served to reinforce this stereotype. Books characterizing a depraved aristocracy weren't exactly the Communist Revolution, but they must have been an annoying poke in the eye to the elite of high society.

Living in a mansion surrounded by a private garden in the wealthy Passy district of Paris, Alra's Madame de Martinprey had devoted her life to raising her daughter, Lucille, and preparing her for marriage. She even had a fiance waiting in the wings, but before the story begins, Lucille has died tragically. Having lost her raison d'etre, Madame de Martinprey doesn't know what to do with herself. The novel tells us that "one day her son, Maurice, age 16, interrupted her contemplation of the portrait of the tragically lost Lucille" and Madame de Martinprey gets an idea. She asks Maurice to visit her daily so she can make a series of comparisons between him and the image of the late Lucille. She looks at his face from every angle. Finally she puts one of Lucille's rings on his hand:

"Your fingers are almost as delicate as hers were," she said. And it was true. Maurice was quite refined, with a very aristocratic figure and bearing. His entire form was patrician, especially his wrists, and he had extremely pretty hands that were hardly any larger than a woman's was and that would not have marred a woman's arm.

When he wanted to take off the ring and give it back to his mother, she suggested, "Perhaps you could continue wearing it?"

"That's impossible, Mother. It's a woman's ring—a girl's ring, even."

"What difference does it make?"

"It would be ridiculous, Mother. To wear such a ring, you would have to have a woman's hand."

"A woman's hand," Madame de Martinprey echoed, dreaming.

In the second chapter, Madame de Martinprey gradually persuades Maurice that he should dress as his sister to

continued on next page



She drew his arm straight back.

please her. She orders him to let his hair grow and sets it in a style similar to his sister's. This was "unpleasant to Maurice, who preferred his own appearance as a masculine, handsome and trim young boy." His mother forbids him to change his hair and slowly she badgers him into wearing women's clothes and acting like a woman. Maurice submits to these demands because he recognizes the depth of his mothers grief and fears for her sanity if he doesn't indulge her desire to create a representation of Lucille.

For anyone familiar with contemporary feminization fiction, this plot is no more improbable than most. From here on the chapter titles effectively outline the book's fetishistic interest in Maurice's feminization: Chapter 3, which has Maurice blushing, is called "Make-up," and chapter 4 is "The First Corset." Since the corset has always been a garment of fetish interest, both this chapter and the cover feature an illustration of Maurice being laced up. [

Though Maurice himself is represented through his grumbling, embarrassment and displays of resistance to the various stages of feminization, most of the chapters show more interest in his new clothes than in the boy himself. In chapter 5, he's trying on and mending his "Substitute Undergarments," and chapter 6 proclaims him "Now in

Women's Clothing." For pathos the reader is given a view of Maurice's dejection and reactions in chapter 7, "The Influence of a Feminine Outfit." By chapter 8, "Dressed to Measure," his mother is no longer content to see Maurice in Lucille's hand-me-downs and hustles him off to the dress shop for some custom made, properly fitted ensembles.

So far Maurice's transvestitism has been mostly closeted, but now that he has his own dresses, he's given "The Test of the Streets." Madame de Martinprey promenades the transformed Maurice through the Etoile, the neighborhood around the Arc de Triomphe, that was one of the most exclusive residential and shopping districts of Paris at the time. From there, chapter 10 has him "At the Shoemaker's and the Glovemaker's." Mother's plan develops rapidly in the next four chapters, "Towards a Change of Sex," "Means for Creating an Illusion," "Miss Lucille" and "To Be Beautiful." As Mother raises the stakes, Maurice's occasional protests become more earnest. There's even one point where he has to be tied to the chair in front of the vanity before his ears are pierced.

By chapter 15, "Success of the Pretty Woman," Maurice has become his sister in his mother's grief stricken mind:

Maurice no longer existed. Standing in front of a tall mirror to give a last look at his toilette, he placed a hat on his wavy hair. He wrapped his arms in the long fur and put a gold band of Lucille's on his wrist. And as he turned on his high, pointed heels, he found himself face to face with Madame de Martinprey, who looked at him in ecstasy and murmured, Lucille, oh, Lucille, my Lucille is back again.

There's a wonderful visual-verbal French pun in this section of the text, a pun Picasso himself had used in a painting of one of his mistresses. The mirror Maurice is standing in front of is called a psyche in French. The word is used both for psyche, as in the unconscious mind, and for cheval glass—a type of full-length mirror mounted in a floor stand that allows the mirror to be tilted. So in this illustration Maurice is confronted by a psyche in both senses—a mirror and his own psychology.

In a development designed to heighten the titillation, the reader is told that Maurice's mother now intends to marry him to a man, hopefully Lucille's former fiancé. To Madame de Martinprey, the new Lucille has reached the proper age for matrimony. But Maurice isn't happy, and the narrator sympathizes, "What a bizarre and infinitely sad fate for a young man like Maurice, who never fully realized the boyish ardor of his real gender. He was so proud of all that he could feel in himself,

proud of his physical, spiritual and moral virility."

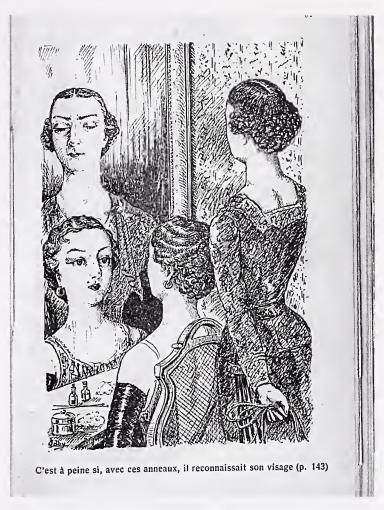
The proposed marriage is a crucial development in the narrative and one that needs be handled delicately. Throwing Maurice into the waiting arms of a handsome man certainly would excite Select-Bibliothque's homosexually inclined readers, but this book was written for fetishistic crossdressers. Though the two groups overlap, they're not identical. To sort out the situation, our author turns to a *deus ex machina*.

The narrator, a friend of the family who recounts the entire novel, intervenes on Maurice's behalf, explaining everything to Lucille's former fiancé. The fiancé sympathizes with both Madame de Martinprey's delusions and Maurice's plight. He agrees to pretend to pay court to Maurice to placate the distressed mother, while sparing Maurice any actual lovemaking. Before his mother can demand that Maurice be waltzed down the aisle and properly bedded, another convenient plot twist saves the day for the much put-upon Maurice:

In any case, the play-acting ended suddenly and tragically. Madame de Martinprey died in an accident. As soon as Maurice found himself alone, he disappeared from the scene after having charged Lucille's ex-fiancé with liquidating the estate. My friend (the ex-fiancé) sent the money to Maurice at the address he had left. After that, my friend never heard him spoken of again.

Though realism is not necessarily a quality highly prized in pornography, *Tu deviendras fille..!* ends more realistically than most feminization stories. This statement includes the contemporary crop. What more likely response for a young man who was so humiliated and now finds himself suddenly rich than to "get out of Dodge." Such verisimilitude is not to be expected in such stories. Beside this, however, both the story and the illustrations are amazingly similar to contemporary feminization tales. It's actually surprising how little the formula has changed in the almost seventy years since *Tu deviendras fille..!* was written. Clothing styles may have changed, but the fetish hasn't.

In the next issue we'll return to Gerard's inventory for another "true" tale of forced feminization tale from the pen of Don Brennus Alra and the press of Select-Bibliothque. This book is over ten years older than Tu deviendras fille..! and includes much more serious domination of the male character. The title is *Fridoline*, *histoire vridique d'un jeune homme devenu actrice*, which translates to *Fridoline*, *The True Story of a Young Man Who Became an Actress*. And note that they say "actress," not female impersonator.



Wearing the earrings, he could hardly recognize his own face.

Lady Like would like to thank Gerard Koskovich for his contributions to this article. He can be reached at <DAlembert@aol.com> or P.O. Box 14301 / San Francisco, CA 94114-0301 / USA. He welcomes readers' questions about the article or titles of gender interest in his inventory.

Ms BOB is a collector of gender-related books, magazines, recordings and ephemera. She is seeking NEW FEMALEMIMICS (Winter, 1970-71), EN FEMME #11 (1989) and LADY LIKE #7, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 33. Visit Ms BOB'S ON-LINE BOOK SHOPPE & EPHEMERA EMPORIUM on the Transgender Forum Shopping Mall (www. tgforum.com) for used and hard to find items. Ms Bob can be contacted c/o Lady Like or at <msbob@tgforum.com>.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For almost two decades she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject you'd be interested seeing covered in DRAMA QUEEN, please, drop us a line and we will try to oblige.

# Guess Who's Coming To Xmas Dinner?

I first met Teresa and Patricia in the spring of 1991, and we rapidly became friends, mostly as a result of their small but regular initiatives. Since that debut, the ladies have extended me numerous invitations, usually for my birthday and Christmastime.

This December 25th [2000] being no exception, I somehow grew obsessed with making the Yuletide season a "memorable" one. In fact, the more the weeks cruised by, the stronger became my resolve! (Uh-oh. I was in one of those *determined* frames of mind again.) Now, while Patricia, a high school teacher, struck me as fairly tolerant, I sporadically visualized being unceremoniously dismissed and dispersed (Get it? dis-missed and dis-pursed?) by her short-tempered mother!

So, okay, whereas I looked forward to the evening get-together, the preparations proved like, the pits! (No, my pits were appropriately smooth and scented.) The chief problem remained my hair! Shit, I must have snagged it on one or another object a dozen times. Levertheness, I ultimately dealt with every item on an extensive checklist and left. An old Duke might have pontificated, "A tran's gotta do what a tran's gotta do!" I chose to exit via the underground garage, rather than the main entrance, for two reasons. First, it was a feasible way to circumnavigate a potentially bustling lobby. Second, even if I were spotted traversing said parking lot, no one would be able to connect me (in "Beverley" mode) with my male counterpart (who doesn't own a car and, hence, never frequents the place). Happily, I strolled into the great outdoors without a complication! Yay!

'Twas a picture-perfect Christmas—cold, clear, calm, and supremely snowscaped. (Double Yay!) Having phoned ahead, I'd been instructed to walk up the driveway and knock whereupon I'd be admitted into the house; so I followed the orders to the letter. Well, you can imagine Patricia's shock when the opening door revealed a tall blonde in fur-collared coat and high-heeled boots! Recovering, she summoned her mom to witness the spectacle! (Actually, Teresa had seen me approaching, all the while assuming I was the genuine article.)

Adhering to a well-rehearsed script, I greeted the pair. I suppose I should have been quaking in Janet's hand-me-down panties, yet, remarkably, I retained my composure. After all, "Iacta alea fuerat." (Or, for those Latin impaired readers, "The die had been cast.")

After the initial giggly Kodak moment, Teresa blurted out something along the lines of, "Okay, now, take it off and come inside!" (She was referring to the wig.) Take "it" off? Duh! Gosh, I'd just spent an entire afternoon perfecting this feminine image! (Would I lie?) Hey, among other painstaking, weeks-long procedures, I'd grown/shaped/painted my nails, plucked my eyebrows to within an inch of their lives, shaved my head (I know, I'm weird), radically redefined my face, and

selected a fabulously fashionable outfit! Heck, what purpose would be served by yanking off the tresses? Hello!

Worse, removing the outer girlie gear exposed a decidedly curvaceous figure! Fer shur! (Bogus boobs. Girdled girth. Padded pelvis. Foam fanny. Hey, I try.) For the record, upon beholding the two-piece ensemble, Teresa grumbled that the top's several unfastened buttons "showed everything." "But...," I qualified, "there's nothing to-show!" (It may be insightful to report that my entrance didn't garner the usual, affectionate hugs and kisses.)

Now in the living room (bags and other paraphernalia unloaded), I proceeded to explain what I thought I was doing! Obviously, I'd read my hostesses' (hostessesses?) minds, because—bingo!—each of us sported a black knee-length skirt. True, my green sleeveless cardigan displayed more skin-but why not? I was the youngest woman there! (Let's face it. If you've got it... Aw, shut up, Rox!)

Patricia quickly noticed that I'd made up my eyes. How thought-fully perceptive of her to say so! We girls totally thrive on attention. (Titter,) When I asked for an honest assessment of my appearance, Pat responded that she didn't wish to hurt my feelings. (Bummer! Was she, like, joking?) Well, okay, still, consider the following: (I) At first glance, she, too, had taken me for a woman; (2) The principal betraying factor was my baritone voice! (Golly, I was making no effort to disguise it. Faking a feminine pitch would have reeked of insincerity!); (3) She actually admitted that I'd done "a good job."

My morale got a boost, however, from her astounded (astonished? flabbergasted? bamboozled?) reaction to my transformation. "And you're so masculine, too!" Furthermore, she and her mom theorized that I looked about 45 years of age. (Awesome! My demi-vain femme persona currently claimed to be 46!) When I half-kiddingly requested that the ladies address me as "Roxanne" ("Beverley" might have completely confused the issue. Teresa insisted there was no way she'd do anything of the kind! (Oops! Did I detect negative vibes?)

Dinner (turkey, trimmings, tea, dessert) proved, like, deliriously delicious. The conversation spirited and cordial! Moreover, without exaggeration, wrapped in my pretty puellar package, I felt every ounce a woman! (Was I losing touch with reality or what?) Hey, don't blame me! Reinforcing this surreal sensation was the proliferation of feminine topics! Despite their rigid insistence on using my "hombre handle," the dialogue (trialogue?) soon focused on the likes of... Surely high heels hurt my feet? (Nope.)... Didn't the countless baubles and bangles feel cumbersome? (Nuh-uh. Plus I made it a point never to be without my "engagement" and "wedding" rings!)... Did my skirt tend to cling like Patricia's? (Not that I'd noticed.)... Had I gotten my ears pierced? (No way!)... Was I wearing contact lenses? (Negative.)...

How long had it taken me to get ready? (4½ hours! I wanted to present as pleasing a product as possible!).

After retiring to the living room, we resumed the girl talk. (I certainly was game!) Unfortunately, as soon as I suggested setting up tripod, camera, and photoflash for some souvenir snapshotsa semiannual tradition-Teresa absolutely refused! (Told ya she was short-tempered.) She tersely pointed out that I remained free to take pictures of myself alone-but she'd have nothing to do with them! (Eep! Was I sensing more negative vibes, perchance?) Bluntly put, it was a matter of "I want to pose with the man I know, not some strange blonde!" (Timid Patricia offered no challenge.) Needless to say, I found myself tres disappointed

The twosome retreated to the kitchen, a noble gesture, considering how awkward I felt playing a female role in public. (Anyway, their absence afforded me the opportunity to replenish my fiery red lipstick!) As I "modelled" in various corners, spaces, nooks, and crannies, I overheard a hushed-yet-heated discussion taking place. (Ah, the unquestioned advantage of being a bigeared babe!) Typically, Teresa sounded the more irate of the pair. (Yikes' Negative vibes galore!)

We exchanged an array of modest presents (cards, reading mate-



rial, sweets, a calendar, lottery tickets, etc.), chattering away in the process. What size pumps did I wear? (11.) What happened to my other earrings? (I'd switched for the photo shoot.) And so on, and so forth. Golly, all the talking was making me hungry, so I opted for a pick-me-up snack as well. (We athletic types burn more calories per hour than the average Joe...er, average Jane? JoAnn? Whoever!)

Now, I'dbrought along fifteen Rox-and-Company pictorial samples, offering the women as many as they wanted. However, to my disillusion, they totally declined! (Why? Normally, these people were photo junkies!) Be that as it may, Patricia took the opportunity to marvel at the uncanny resemblance of my numerous girlie images to my mother! (Super! In her prime, Mom could have been described as a certified beauty! I was honoured!) Eventually, Pat stole away, returning with her camera. Alas, ever adamant, feisty mama again rejected any notion of a group picture!

Not wishing to overstay my welcome, I gravitated towards my belongings and prepared for a departure. (I'd been visiting for nearly six hours. Besides, I couldn't help but notice a glassy-eyed Teresa stifling yawn after yawn.) You know, bundling up for winter weather was nuisance enough; but, golly, doing so as a female constituted an absolute ordeal! (Was my hat on straight? Was my hair on straight? What had I done with my scarf? My belt? And where were my keys? Hadn't I thrown them into my purse upon arriving?) Barfo-rama!

Despite any difficulty in describing my feelings at that instant, the Julianesque wording might be: "Veni. Viderunt, Vici." (Translation for you lay ladies out there, "I came. They saw. I conquered." At least, I hope I conquered!) The return trip (a paltry quarter-mile) was likewise uneventful, except for the noticeable drop in temperature (Whoa! That really chilled this gal's knyloned kneecaps.) I hurriedly slipped into the building the same way I'd slipped out. Within minutes, "Bev" was home!

In retrospect, I wonder why Teresa, otherwise as sweet as nougat, stood so dead against my femme alter ego? Back in 1938, (yes, you read it correctly!), she and her husband had snapped photos of each other crossdressed! The pictures (which I'd been shown) were featured in a family album; and my elder hostess occasionally referred to the gender-bending experience with humour and a degree of fondness. (Okay, it bordered on boasting.) Regardless, somehow she wasn't quite able to accept my comparable act. Go figure!

So, okay, I've finally revealed my "alternate self" to friends. And, apparently (unshur!) I've passed the physical! As for any long-term implications, has the "coming out" jeopardized a 9½ year relationship? That question should be answered by April 22nd, my birthday.

**Gnarly Gnoel!** 

(No, "Gnarly" wasn't Ebenezer Scrooge's late business partner! As if! Methinks a studious review of a certain Dickens classic is in order!)

# Resources

# North American Support Groups

## National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO 80x 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info, Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. "ifge@ifge.org""www.ifge.org'

Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$40 includes the monthly publication "Transgender Community News." Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization. "angela@ren.org" "www.ren.org'

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a nonprofit membership organization. "jeftris∂aol.com'

Alaska T People, c/o 8obbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK, 99567

#### AL

Madison County Gender Center, c/o Metropolitan Community Church, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, AL, 35810

## ΑZ

A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ, 85312 Alpha-Zeta (Tri-Ess), PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ, 85280-1738

Evolere Transgendered Foundation, 1830 E. Broadway 8lvd. #124-269, Tucson, AZ, 85719

Tau Upsilon, 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, AZ, 85710

3rd Sect, c/o Sacto. Gender Assoc., PO 8ox 215456, Sacramento, CA, 95821-1456

Access Point, PO Box 7180, Los Osos, CA,

Alpha Chapter, 409 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. <sup>4</sup>320, Redondo 8each, CA, 90277

American Transsexual Education Center. 1626 n. Wilcox Ave. #584, Hollywood, CA,

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, (Santa Monica) Los Angeles, CA, 90048

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA, 92517

CD Social Group, PO 80x 224, Montrose, CA

Center for Gay, Lesbian, 8isexual & Transgendered Community, 3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA, 92103

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA, 90808 Diablo Valley Girls, PO 80x 272885, Concord, CA. 94527-2885

Emergence-Support for Christian TS, 208 W. Manning, Reedley, CA, 93654

FPSG, #634 PO 80x 410-990, San Francisco, CA. 94141-0990

Gender Awareness League, PO Box 46062, Los Angeles, CA, 90046

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA, 90714-0816

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center/ The Village, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles, CA, 90038

Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine,

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego,

Omega Chi, PO 80x 1088, Yorba Linda, CA,

Powder Puffs of California, PO 80x 1088, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 South Main St., Suite 104, Pomona, CA, 91765

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA, 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO 80x 215456. Sacramento, CA, 95821-1456

San Francisco Gender Information (SFGI). PO 80x 423602, San Francisco, CA, 94142

Sigma Sigma 8eta, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA, 96151

Silicon Valley Gender Association, 175 Stockton, San Jose, CA.

Society for Initiatives & Services in TG Issues, PO 80x 30844, Oakland, CA, 94604

Society for Second Self (Tri-Ess), PO Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275

TGSF, PO 80x 426486, San Francisco, CA,

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO 80x 6541, San Jose, CA, 95150-6541

Trans-Action, 973 Market St. Suite 500, San Francisco, CA, 94103

Transsexual Support Group, The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th St., Long Beach,

Tri Chi Tri-Ess. PO Box 194. Tulare. CA. 93275 U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. 80x 3182, Cerritos, CA, 90703-3182

Ventura Transgender Outreach, c/o GLCC, 3503 Arundell Circle, Suite 3-A, Ventura, CA,

Nadia Cabezas c/o Jeff Faircloth, 191 Golden Ave, San francisco, CA, 94102

Delta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 16208, Denver, CO,

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO,

Phoneix Project, 1740 South 8uckley Road, #6-178, Aurora, CO, 80017

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clarmont, Pueblo, CO, 81004-2808

Teenage Kids of TSs, c/o Laurie Ciccotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora, CO,

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT, 06034

connecticuTView PO 8ox 228r Devon CT

G8SING, c/o PO 80x 162, Haddam, CT, 6438 Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO 80x 387, Hartford,

Washington-8altimore Alliance, PO 8ox 50724, Washington, D.C., 20091-0724

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO 8ox 5656, Wilmington, DE, 19808

Animas, PO 80x 420309, Miami, FL, 33242 Gamma Chi Beta, PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL, 33951-0045

Gender Society of the Palm 8eaches, c/o Compass, 1700 N. Dixie Highway, W. Palm Beach, FL, 33407

Lauderdale Area TG Support, c/o Diane Arnold 3990 NW 42nd Ave, Lauderdale Lakes, FL, 33319

Mu 8eta Gamma Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 4126, Hialeah, FL, 33014

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO 80x 5765, Jacksonville, Fl, 32245-5765

Phi Epislon Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, FL, 32790-3261

Starburst, PO 80x 6822, Clearwater, FL.

Tau Lambda, Tri-Ess, PO Box 3426.

Tallahassee, FL, 32315-3426

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL, 32614-3102

AGE, PO 80x 98330, Atlanta, GA, 30359 Montgomery Institute, PO Box 33311, Decatur, GA, 30033

Sigma Epsilon, Tri-Ess, PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA, 30077-0272

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI, 96812

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO 80x 1925, Clinton, IA, 52733-1925

lowa Artistry, PO 80x 75, Cedar Rapids, IA,

QCAD, PO 80x 1534, Davenport, IA, 52809

Tri-States Transgender Group, PO 80x 6691, 8oise, ID, 83707

#### II.

Central Illinois Gender Assoc (CIGA), P.O. 80x 3082, Champaign, IL, 60826-3082

Chi, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 4o, Wood Dale, IL,

Chicago Gender Society, PO 80x 578005, Chicago, IL, 60657

Sunday Society, PO 80x 478850, Chicago, IL,

Transgender Outreach Project, PO 80x 441. Urbana, IL, 61801

IXE, PO 80x 20710, Indianapolis, IN, 46250 Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO 80x 2372, Portage, IN, 46368

KCCAF (Kansas City), PO 80x 4092, Overland Park, KS, 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO 80x 3002, Wichita, KS, 67201-3002

8G8 (a.k.a. 8lueGrass Belles), PO 8ox 20173, Louisville, Ky, 40250

Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA, 70156-6836

COMPASS, PO 8ox 229, Waltham, MA, 02454 Innvestments, PO Box 2194, Orleans, MA, 02653-3160

Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA, 01035-0564

TG Support Group, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland,

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham, MA, 02454-0071

Chi Epsilon Sigma, PO 80x 505, Brooklandville, MD, 21022-0505

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD, 21206-0337

Tran\*Ouility Gender Information Society. Inc., c/o GLCCB, 241 W. Chase Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201

Trans Info Project (FtM), PO 80x 1145, Greenbelt, MD, 20770

Transgender Support Group of 8altimore, c/ o Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Balt., MD, 21201

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO 80x 1994, Silver Spring, MD, 20915

#### ME

Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO 8ox 1894, 8angor, ME, 04402 Transsupport, Box 17622, Portland, ME, 04101

#### ΜI

After Six, 8ox 126, Comstock Park, MI, 49321 Crossroads, 8ox 1245, Royal Oak, MI, 48068 Friends North, Inc., PO 8ox 562, Traverse City, MI, 49685-0562

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI, 49501

#### MN

8eta Gamma, Tri-Ess, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN, 55408

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO 8ox 14844, Minneapolis, MN, 55414

Gender Education Center, PO 80x 1861, Maple Grove, MN, 55311

#### MO

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO 80x 9433, St. Louis, MO, 63117

#### MS

8eta Chi, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 31253, Jackson, MS, 39286-1253

Southern 8elle Society, PO Box 3112, Gulfport, MS, 39505

#### NC

Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), II2 Edwardia, Charlotte, NC, 27409

Kappa 8eta, Tri-Ess, PO 80x 12101, Charlotte, NC, 28220-2101

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO 8ox 18332, Asheville, NC, 28814

Sigma Rho Delta Tri-Ess, PO Box 90141, Raleigh, NC, 27675-0141

Triad Gender Association, PO 8ox 2264, Jamestown, NC, 27282-2264

#### NE

River City Gender Alliance, PO 80x 8076, Omaha, NE 68108

#### NH

Tri-Ess New England, PO Box 7681, Nashau, NH, 03060-7681

#### NJ

Chi Delta Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box I, River Edge, NJ, 07661-0001

Epsilon Mu Gamma, PO Box 4, Three Bridges, NI, 8887

New Jersey Support, PO Box 9378, Trenton, NJ, 8650

Sigma Nu Rho, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 9255, Trenton, NJ, 8650

#### NM

Phi (Fiesta), Tri-Ess, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM, 87109

#### NV

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV, 89511-8981

TG Support, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

#### NY

Buffalo Belles, PO 80x 1701, Amherst, NY, 14226

CD\*Network, PO 80x 92055, Rochester, NY, 14692

CDI, 404 W40th #2, NYC NY 10018

CNY TransMenace, 405 Howard St, #I, Syracuse, NY, 13203

Expressing Our Nature, Inc., c/o Pride Community Center, PO 8ox 66o8, 745 N Salina St., Syracuse, NY, 13217-66o8

Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, One Little West 12th Street, New York, NY, 10014

Lambda Chi Lambda, Tri-Ess, PO 80x 1010, Cooperstown, NY, 13326

LIFE, PO 80x 1311, Watermill, NY, 11976-1311

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY, 10014

Rochester Transgender organization, C/O Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley; 179 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY, 14607

TGIC, PO 80x 13604, Albany, NY, 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO 80x 753, New Paltz, NY, 12561

#### OH

Alpha Omega, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH, 44054-0053

Crossport, PO 80x 1692, Cincinnati, OH, 45204

Crystal Club, PO 80x 287, Reynoldsburg, OH, 43068-0287

It's Time Ohio!, PO Box 21310, Columbus, OH, 43221

Paradise Club, PO 8ox 29564, Cleveland, OH, 44129

TransFamily of Cleveland, 2121 S Green Rd, S Euclid, OH, 44121-3300

#### Ok

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, 3334 W. Main Ste. 203, Norman, OK, 73072

#### OR

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR, 97850

Northwest Gender Alliance, PO 8ox 4928, Portland, OR, 97208

Phoenix Rising Foundation, 620 SW 5th Avenue Ste. 710, Portland, OR, 97204-1422 Rho Gamma, PO 80x 5551, Grants Pass, OR,

#### PA

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA, 16505

Renaissance - Lehigh Valley, PO 80x 3624, Allentown, PA, 18106

Renaissance, Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA, 19087

Renaissance, Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO 80x 2122, Harrisburg, PA, 17105-2122

Transpitt, PO 80x 3214, Pittsburgh, PA, 15230

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206

#### TN

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO 8ox 11052, Memphis, TN, 38111-1052

Tennessee Vals, PO 8ox 92335, Nashville, TN, 37209

#### TX

Alpha Tau, PO Box 1398, Georgetown, TX, 78627

Austin Second Image, PO 80x 679, Leander, TX, 78641

Central Texas Transgender Society, PO 80x 300487, Austin, TX, 78705

Epsilon Tau, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 945, New Waverly, TX, 77358

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX, 77090

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX, 77083

ICTLEP, PO Drawer 35477, Houston, Texas, 77235-5477

Metroplex CD Club, PO 80x 141924, Irving, TX, 75014-1924

Nu Epsilon Tau, PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX, 76094

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Peggy Rudd, c/o 888o 8ellaire 82 \*104, Houston, TX, 77036

Tau Chi, Tri-Ess, 8800 Bellaire 82, Ste. 104, Houston, TX

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (T.A.T.S.), PO 80x 142, 8ellaire, TX, 77401

#### UT

An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT, 84147

Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay Blvd, "2, Salt Lake City, UT, 84117

#### VA

Chi Epsilon Sigma tri-Ess, c/o PO 80x 382, Norge, VA, 2317-0382

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO 80x 16036, Arlington, VA, 22215

#### VT

TRANS, PO 80x 5687, 8urlington, VT, 5402

#### 33/A

8ellingham Gender Group, PO Box 2004, 8ellingham, WA, 98227

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA, 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA, 98122-2843

#### wı

Gemini Gender Group, P.O.Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI, 53214

Madison Transgender Group, 14W Mifflin St, Madison, WI, 53704

#### ww

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV, 25724

# Rachel's Hair & Wig Salon

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Accessories
Jewelry & Breast
forms...
and we do
Professional Makeovers



# **Calendar of Events**

# January 2002

17 - 20 Tiffany Club's First Event 2002, Woburn, Massachusetts At the Crowne Plaza Hotel Sponsored by Tiffany Club of New England For more info E-mail: <events@tcne.org> or call Tuesday nights from 7pm to 11pm, (781) 891-9325. Visit their website at <www.tcne.org>.

# February 2002

15 - 18, 6th Annual True Spirit Conference, Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C. <a href="http://www.true-spirit.org/">http://www.true-spirit.org/</a>

## March 2002

7 - 10, Colorado Gold Rush 2002, Red Lion Inn, Denver Colo. Contact GIC, Inc. for details. Email <GICofColo@aol.com>.

16, ICNY Night of 1000 Gowns at the New York Marriott Marquis 1535 Broadway, New York, NY 10036. Details to come.

# April 2002

3 - 7, Transgender 2002, The 16th Annual IFGE Convention Nashville, TN. Co-hosted by The Tennessee Vals, TG support group. For more details on Transgender 2002, Phone: (610) 759-1761 or E-mail: Kristines James at: <skristinej@aol.com>.

5 - 7, Eureka! En Femme Getaway, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, Co-hosted by Sigma-Mu, Springfield Mo and Tri-Ess Int. An Elegant and Relaxing weekend in the quaint Victorian town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Join us for a fun filled weekend in a community that is extremely TG friendly. Contact femmegetaway@yahoo.com

**30 - 5/5, Diva Las Vegas 2002**. For info e-mail: dlv@geekbabe.com

# May 2002

12-19, Esprit 2002, in Port Angeles, Wash. Esprit 2002 is cohosted by Seattle's Emerald City group, Portland's Northwest Gender Alliance, and Vancouver BC's Cornbury Group. This is our 12th year of hosting this fabulous event in Port Angeles Washington! Please visit our website or send email questions to esprit@espritgala.com.

**15 - 22, Dignity Cruise 16**, 2002 Sailing to Alaska from Vancouver. For info email: melpeg@pmpub.com.

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here, please send email to <jo\_\_\_\_\_\_ ann@cdspub.com>.

# **How To Submit Photos**

We **do not** accept digital photos by email. We also **cannot use** "photos" you have printed from an **inkjet printer**. We need real glossy photographs. If you include your mailing name and mailing address **on the back** of your photo, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. **If you are a subscriber**, we'll forward mail for you for the length of your subscription. Write your customer number on your photos. **If you are NOT a subscriber**, include \$10 with your photo and we will forward mail to you for 1 year. **Note: Do not write** on the photos with ball point ink. Use a permanent marker.

# How To Reply to Photos

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there is a FWD number, write your letter, put it in an envelope and *in pencil* write the FWD number on the front. For *each* letter to be forwarded, put your letter in its envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at *LadyLike* Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

# How To Subscribe

LadyLike is the publication that treats the subjects of transvestism and crossdressing as they should be treated, with respect and sophistication. Chock full of great features and loads of photos, you won't want to miss a single issue. Every issue contains important and useful information to help you realize the "ladylike" qualities within yourself.

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LadyLike Magazine, PO Box 491 Lionville, PA USA 19353-0491



▲ Lea, PO Box 144, Sturgis MI 49091-0144



▲ Jan, UK. FWD3723



▲ Roxy "Look At Me!" Wilson (I) and Morgan Stevens and the 2001 Paradise In The Poconos.



▲ Foxy Roxy, 521 merriman Dr., El Paso TX 79912



▲ Barbara Roberts, PO Box 6372, Baltimore MD 21230-0372

# Letters...

publication that reflects beauty and good taste.

Your girls have become famous to thousands of adoring fans. Some of my favorites are Melissa Franks, Foxy Roxy and Nicole Shelby. There are dozens of other beautiful T girls that grace your pages. I love them all and love you for giving us this wonderful forum. Love, Jennifer, c/o J O Merch, PO Box 2672, Austin TX 78768.

## Looking To Build A Group

Dear JoAnn, I took your advice and wrote to Renaissance about starting my own group. They responded with a pamphlet saying a lot of things I already knew. We'll see what happens after you publish one of my photos. I hope it'll be in the January issue. Let us see if anybody chooses to communicate with me.



One thing I need around here is a wig shop. A few I called in the phonebook say at least on the phone they don't want an TV business. Do you know of any wig shops in my area? There's one in Williamsport but that's 65 miles from me. Any suggestions?

Janet Heron, PO Box 482, Berwick, PA 18603

JoAnn replies: Anyone interested in helping Janet get a group going out her way? If you are, please write her. As for wigs, there's always the Internet. Check out our vendors.

## Cover of #46 Breathtaking

Dear LadyLike, Look forward to each issue of LadyLike with eager anticipation! Issue #46 was fabulous, as usual, and the cover was breathtaking with Brenda R. and Paulette. Angela's views on her femme experiences were very insightful. JoAnn's editorial on expenses and fund raising illustrated an



interesting contrast. The article on Sally's Hideaway was especially poignant for me since I have corresponded with some sisters who used to go there. Roxy Wilson's computer school training goes to show what a girl with the right kind of attitude and personality can do. Brenda Lawrence's hormone therapy was thought provoking and Foxy Roxy's hair raising adventure was very cute. Loved all of the other articles as well. Would love to hear from anyone who would like to correspond about their femme experiences and adventures.

Very Sincerely Yours, Leslie Fairmont, PO Box 5093, Wilmington, DE 19808

## Similar Airport Tale

My Dearest JoAnn, I just received my latest LadyLike, #46, and again, your editorial about the Rikki Swin Institute was great. I agree with you. I also liked the going to school article by Roxy Wilson, and



Foxy Roxy's airport tale. I once had something happen to me, also. I was sending my wife on vacation and every time I went through the metal detector it went off. I was not fully dressed, I was under-dressed, male outside, female underneath with garter belt and waist cincher on. It kept setting off the alarm. They said it was most likely my cowboy belt buckle. Now, I just wear pantyhose or stay up stockings when I have to go to the airport. I also saw two of my friends in Mirror Mirror. I also want to express how much I enjoyed meeting you at the IFGE convention in Chicago. You're one of the best in our community. Keep up the good work. And yes! I did donate to the Transgender Fund. It is for all of us. Your loving sister, Janet Matthews FWD#3863

## Likes JoAnn's Editorials

Dear JoAnn, It was very nice to see that you used part (or all) of my letter in your editorial. To answer everyone's question, I have nothing against gay or straight crossdressers. My point was just this, that if we are going to have any type of community we are



going to all have to learn to work together, be we gay, bi, or straight. But it was nice to know that there were others out there who felt the same way about this subject as I do. Thanks JoAnn for all your hard work. I always look forward to reading your editorial. But there is one thing I would like to see. Could you do something on the different clubs in each state that we girls could go to? I think that would be very helpful. Hugs and kisses, Sydney Boyd 9006 Hwy 76 South Stanton, TN, 38069

JoAnn replies: Thanks for your nice comments. As for a club list, that is a very difficult undertaking, especially for a quarterly publication. Your best bet is the online Club list available to members of TGForum <www.tgforum.com>.

#### Honored To Be Included

Thank you for publishing my photos in #45. I was absolutely floored by all the letters I received. It's very exciting to hear from so many people. I wanted to send photos but always lost my nerve. It is a real honor to be included in your magazine. The newsstand where I purchase LadyLike was stuck on issue #44 and then went right to #46. This was frustrating since the mail started pouring in at the beginning of May. I finally found a copy. Needless to say I'm enclosing a check for a subscription to avoid missing any more issues. I have learned so much from your wonderful magazine. I was just starting to dress in the early 90s and felt more than a little confused. The articles and letters in your magazine opened up a whole new world. I'm hoping to join a group here and get more involved in the community. I'm enclosing a few photos I hope you can use in an up coming issue. I look forward to corresponding with more readers. Best Wishes, Kellie Keane, PO Box 46201, Kansas City, MO 64134



# Letters...

## **Compulsive Obession**

My Darlings JoAnn and Angela, Since I am blessed with a compulsive obsession to express my innate femininity I am adoringly addicted to your exquisite exploration of us genetically special girls in your marvelous, sophisticated magazine, LadyLike. Oh! How I treasure avidly reading and intensely viewing your trendy TV revelations. Your she-scribes offer a sassy, saucy insight to the spicy escapades of their lady larks ... and ... create a maiden desire to be part of any of their feminine fun. My ONLY deep concern is that your terrific



TV treasure is not published often enough! Thank you dolls for your contribution. Loads of love, Laura Cynthia Hunt PO Box 2211 Hollywood, CA 90078

Angela says: Well thanks Laura. You are not only very complimentary but you must be using a thesaurus to find all those descriptive works. We love our readers to be well read. As for more than quarterly issue of LadyLike, it would only serve to dilute the wonderful ambience of each carefully crafted and sharply honed edition of our delightful, daringly feminine publication.

## Do It Again, Please

Dear Editor, One more time I want to congratulate you for your great publication. LadyLike is a very nice mag, I wish we had the same kind of publication in France. I had on of my pictures published in #44 and I hope you will be OK to publish my enclosed new pic I made a few weeks ago with the help of my girlfriend. Please keep on doing your very good work. Regards, Patrick

Angela responds: Mais oui et Merci! Glad ya like it, doll.







▲ Breeze Bergan, PO Box 10322, Lahaina HI 96761



▲ JoAnnC413@aol.com



▲ June, Long Island NY



▲ Chrissy Ellen, PMB 203, 1115 E. Ridge Rd, Griffith IN 46319-1398



▲ Sammy, PO Box 16284, Golden CO 80402



▲ Jessica M., PO Box 6120-331, Newport Beach CA 92658



▲ Lois Elaine Fisher, PO Box 3781 Eureka CA 95502-3781

# Send Your Photos!



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# On My Mind...



I've been hearing a lot lately about transgender support groups folding up. People have been complaining that attendance is down, and donations are down significantly. I know from talking with Angela Gardner that Renais-

sance has seen a decrease in its membership. Joan Goodnight told me that Powder Puffs of California has ceased operation. Julie Johnson, chair of the board for the International Foundation for Gender Education said that their office staff is down to one full time person and some part time help. So, what's going on here?

I think there are several good reasons for the decline in group attendance. First and foremost, we've done our job, too well perhaps. Our message, at least at Renaissance, has been: feel good about yourself, stand proud, boldly go where no tran has gone before. I think people have taken our advice. Once they get used to being out in public, who wants to sit in a room full of trannies listening to makeup tips when they could be out at a TGIFriday or Chilis having fun at the bar?

I also believe the Internet has made a major impact on support group attendance. I remember trying to coax people into a Renaissance meeting from the parking lot. They'd get all dressed up, drive to the meeting and then just sit there in their car, too afraid to walk through the door. The Net has made that experience unnecessary. People can get all dolled up and sit in front of their computer and visit just about anywhere in the world. There is an old sight gag showing a dog at a computer terminal. Under the drawing it says, "On the net, no one knows you're a dog." Yeah, well no one knows you're not a real girl, either. Chat rooms, websites, IRC, newsgroups, these all provide the sort of "support" people used to find at support groups. Why go to a group meeting and potentially expose yourself to discovery, or worse ridicule, if you can get what you need sitting in front of the computer? So, what does this trend bode for "support groups," and for the nationals such as Renaissance, IFGE, and Tri-Ess?

Some groups will fold, like PPOC and AEGIS\* did. When attendance drops off to nil there's little else that can be done. Tri-Ess, an organization that gets much grief about its focused mission (i.e., heterosexual couples), is probably in the best shape of all. IFGE and Renaissance may have to rethink their missions. Both are pretty much down to skeleton crews and barely getting out their respective publications. Might this not be a good time to think about some consolidation?

Let's look at the airlines as an analogy. Before Sept. 11th, many airlines were limping along, just making their expenses and payrolls. After Sept. 11th, the airline industry drops into a tail spin and there is talk of bankruptcies. The obvious problem (at least to me), is there are too many airplane seats and not enough passengers. The obvious solution (at least to me), is for some of those airlines to merge, reducing the number of seats to better match the number of passengers.

Okay, back to our tg organizations. Not enough people and money to go around? Then the obvious solution (at least to me), is consolidation, or merger. This is not the first time I've brought this up. I tried to bring about a study and discussion between IFGE, Renaissance, Tri Ess and AEGIS, back several years ago. While everyone paid lip service to the idea, one group had a bad case of "not invented here" and nothing ever happened. Had those groups actually talked to one another, they might not be having the problems they're having. So maybe it's time to take a look at that option again.

One other thing... we have a new address. Yes, after almost 16 years we've moved. The new address is at the bottom of page 40. Make sure to send all correspondence and subscription requests to the new address.

Stay Frosty!

## JoAnn Roberts

(\* Actually AEGIS reformatted itself into a web based information source at <www.gender.org>.)



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